

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph from line 24, page 3 to line 12, page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

The dehydration reaction in the present invention is a reaction of converting glycerol into acrolein and conducted by vaporizing the raw material (glycerol or aqueous glycerol solution) so as to be gaseous and then making this gas conduct a gas phase reaction in the presence of a catalyst. Examples of the catalyst that can be used in the aforementioned dehydration reaction include: natural and synthetic clay compounds such as kaolinite, bentonite, montmorillonite and zeolite; catalyst such that phosphoric acid or sulfuric acid is supported on a support such as alumina; inorganic oxides or inorganic composite oxides such as Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , ZrO_2 , SnO_2 , V_2O_5 , $\text{SiO}_2\text{-Al}_2\text{O}_3$, $\text{SiO}_2\text{-TiO}_2$ and $\text{TiO}_2\text{-WO}_3$; solid acidic substances such as sulfates, carbonates, nitrates and phosphates of metals such as MgSO_4 , $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$, K_2SO_4 , AlPO_4 , and ~~$\text{Zr}_3(\text{SO}_4)_2$~~ $\text{Zr}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$. It is usually preferable that these are used in the shape of such as sphere, pillar, ring, saddle. When the above-mentioned substance is a powder, it may be molded alone, or may be used in the form such as impregnated into a already-molded support or applied to its surface. The reaction temperature in the aforementioned dehydration reaction is preferably set in the range of 200 to 370°C, though not especially limited.

Please replace the paragraph from line 19, page 4 to line 26, page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition, in the aforementioned dehydration reaction, ~~in order to prevent a runaway reaction caused by a high concentration gas,~~ it is preferable that: to the gas generated by the vaporization of the raw material, there is added an inert gas, and then a flow of the resultant mixed gas is passed through the reactor. Specifically, it is preferable that the concentration of the inert gas in the gas being supplied to the reactor of the aforementioned dehydration reaction is controlled to not less than 50% by volume. Incidentally, as the aforementioned inert gas, for example, it is possible to use such as nitrogen gas, carbon dioxide gas, rare gas, and water vapor.